GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3825
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2000
TARAPUR ATOMIC POWER STATION
SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether enriched uranium is being supplied to Tarapur Atomic Power Station(TAPS) by China;

(b) if so, whether Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)has been carrying out detailed studies to supply totally indigenous fuel to Tarapur Atomic Power Station(TAPS);

(c) if so, the outcome of the study; and

(d) the time by which TAPS is likely to be freed from dependence on the enriched uranium being supplied by China?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SMT. VASUNDHARA RAJE)

(a) Enriched uranium in the form of uranium hexafluoride was procured from China in the past. China is no longer supplying enriched uranium to the Tarapur Atomic Power Station(TAPS).

(b) The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) has developedan indigenous alternative fuel based on mixture of uranium and plutonium oxide called MOX fuel for TAPS.

(c) The study has indicated that MOX fuel can perform as well as the present enriched uranium fuel.

(d) The BARC has demonstrated that it has the requisite technology to fuel TAPSwith indigenous MOX fuel.If the supply of low enriched uranium from abroad gets disrupted, then the technology indigenously developed by BARC will be adopted.